AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1-9.   (Cancelled)

10.   (Currently Amended) A method, comprising:

receiving a transaction;

storing transaction information as a split-completion for the transaction;

arbitrating ~~the~~ to select a split-completion from a plurality of stored split completions; ~~and~~

initiating a split-completion transaction ~~in response to said arbitrating~~ according to the selected split-completion; and

restricting a duration of the split-completion transaction according to a maximum split-completion transaction duration associated with the split-completion transaction.

11.   (Original) The method of claim 10 further comprising responding to the transaction with a split response.

12.   (Original) The method of claim 10 wherein said receiving a transaction comprises receiving part of an initiated sequence of transactions.

13.   (Currently Amended) The method of claim 10 wherein said storing ~~a split-completion for the~~ transaction information comprises storing a sequence identification and a command identification.

14.   (Currently Amended) The method of claim 13 wherein said storing ~~a split-completion for the~~ transaction information further comprises storing data corresponding to the command identification.

15.   (Original) The method of claim 10 wherein said arbitrating the split-completion comprises determining a ranking of a split-completion transaction for the split-completion.

16.   (Currently Amended) The method of claim 10 wherein said arbitrating the split-completion comprises ~~limiting the duration of a split-completion transaction for the split-completion~~ determining the maximum split-completion transaction duration associated with the split-completion transaction.

17.   (Original) The method of claim 10 wherein said initiating a split-completion transaction comprises transmitting a completion message.

18.   (Currently Amended) The method of claim 10 wherein said initiating a split-completion transaction comprises forwarding a-the split-completion transaction.

19-24. (Cancelled)

25.   (Currently Amended) A machine-readable medium containing instructions, which when executed by a machine, cause said machine to perform operations, comprising:
        receiving a transaction;
        storing transaction information as a split-completion for the transaction;
        arbitrating the-to select a split-completion from a plurality of stored split-completions; and
        initiating a split-completion transaction in response to said arbitrating the-according to the selected split-completion; and
        restricting a duration of the split-completion transaction according to a maximum split-completion transaction duration associated with the split-completion transaction.

26.   (Original) The machine-readable medium of claim 25 wherein said receiving a transaction comprises receiving part of an initiated sequence of transactions.

27.   (Currently Amended) The machine-readable medium of claim 25 wherein said storing a-split-completion-for-the transaction information comprises storing a sequence identification and a command identification.

28.   (Original) The machine-readable medium of claim 25 wherein said arbitrating the split-completion comprises determining a ranking of a split-completion transaction for the split-completion.

29.   (Original) The machine-readable medium of claim 25 wherein said initiating a split-completion transaction comprises transmitting a completion message.

30.   (Currently Amended) An apparatus, comprising:
        a buffer to store transaction information as a split completion of a transaction;
        an arbiter to arbitrate-initiation-of-initiate a split-completion transaction for the-a split completion selected from the buffer based upon a priority associated with the split completion; and

~~circuitry to initiate the split-completion transaction~~to restrict a duration of the split-completion transaction according to a maximum split-completion transaction duration associated with the split-completion transaction.

31.   (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 30, further comprising ~~circuitry~~a transaction facilitator coupled to said circuitry to track outstanding split-completion transactions.

32.   (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 30, further comprising a transaction facilitator ~~circuitry~~coupled to said circuitry to limit a quantity of outstanding split-completion transactions.

33.   (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 30, further comprising a transaction facilitator ~~circuitry~~to track available space in said buffer for a second split completion.

34.   (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 30, ~~wherein said circuitry comprises~~further comprising:
        a transaction facilitator including:
                an initiator to forward the split-completion transaction to a target device~~;~~, and
                a completer to respond to a requester of the split-completion transaction.

35.   (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 30, wherein said arbiter ~~comprises circuitry~~is further to associate a priority with initiation of the split-completion transaction based upon a determination of fairness for a requester associated with the split completion.

36.   (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 35, wherein the ~~circuitry to associate a priority comprises circuitry~~arbiter is further to determine fairness for the requester based upon a round robin selection of the requester.

37.   (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 35, wherein the ~~circuitry to associate a priority comprises circuitry~~arbiter is further to determine fairness for the requester based upon a fixed priority for access by the requester.

38.   (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 30, wherein said arbiter comprises a ~~counter coupled to said circuitry~~timer to monitor the duration of the split-completion transaction, the arbiter to terminate the split-completion transaction once the timer expires.

39.   (Currently Amended) A system, comprising:

a bus;

a bridge to ~~arbitrate initiation of~~coupled to the bus, the bridge including:

a buffer to store transaction information as a split completion of a transaction, and

an arbiter to initiate a split-completion transaction ~~and to initiate the~~ for a split-completion ~~transaction~~ selected from the buffer based upon a priority associated with the split completion, and to restrict a duration of the split-completion transaction according to a maximum split-completion transaction duration associated with the split-completion transaction; and

a processor coupled to the bus to receive the split-completion transaction from said bridge.

40.   (Currently Amended) The system of claim 39, wherein said processor ~~comprises circuitry~~ is to transact with a target device via said bridge.

41.   (Currently Amended) The system of claim 39, wherein said processor ~~comprises circuitry~~ is further to respond to the split-completion transaction via said bridge.

42.   (Currently Amended) The system of claim 39, wherein ~~said bridge comprises: circuitry~~ the arbiter is further to determine a sequence for the split-completion transaction based upon a priority associated with the split completion~~; and~~

~~circuitry to initiate the split-completion transaction according to the sequence~~.

43.   (Currently Amended) The system of claim 41, wherein said bridge further comprises ~~circuitry~~ a timer to limit the duration of the split-completion transaction.

Please add the following new claims:

--44.   (New) The method of claim 10, wherein restricting the duration of the split-completion transaction comprises:

decrementing a counter following each data transfer of the split-completion transaction, the counter initially set according to a byte transfer counter of the split-completion transaction; and

terminating the split-completion transaction once the counter is clear.

45.   (New) The method of claim 16, wherein determining the maximum split-completion transaction comprises:

loading a master latency timer for the split-completion transaction according to a byte transfer count of the split-completion transaction.

46.   (New) The system of claim 39, wherein the bridge further comprises:

a transaction facilitator to initiate the split-completion transaction according to the sequence.

47.   (New) The system of claim 46, wherein the bridge further comprises:

a split-completion commitment limit register to indicate a maximum cumulative sequence size of outstanding split-completion transactions.

48.   (New) The system of claim 46, further comprising:

next split-completion size register coupled to the transaction facilitator, the next split-completion size register to indicate an amount of available buffer space in the split-completion buffer available to store split-completions.

49.   (New) The system of claim 47, wherein the transaction facilitator is to terminate a transaction of a requester if acceptance of the transaction would cause a cumulative sequence size of pending split-completion transactions to exceed a value stored within the split-completion commitment limit register.

50.   (New) The system of claim 43, wherein the arbiter to store a byte transfer count of the split-completion transaction within the timer. --